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Measures to eliminate international terrorism

The United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy

Identical letters dated 5 April 2012 from the Permanent Representative of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

Over the past few days, there has been an escalation in terrorist acts committed by armed groups in Syria, particularly since the reaching of an agreement regarding the plan proposed by Mr. Kofi Annan. There have been bombings which preliminary evidence suggests are the work of Al-Qaida elements, as well as violence perpetrated by other armed terrorist groups. There has also been growing incitement from parties that claim to support Syria and the mission of the Special Envoy of the United Nations while at the same time taking measures that contravene that plan and inhibit the return of security and stability to Syria.

The outcomes of certain recent meetings show that the participants' fundamental goal was to shed more Syrian blood. Indeed, certain parties have announced that they will allocate resources to finance, arm and pay the salaries of groups which, as we have demonstrated in previous letters, have carried out killings, violence and terrorism.

Certain parties sparked the unfolding crisis in Syria through unprecedented media incitement and by supporting, arming and funding terrorist groups; yet they never acknowledged the existence of those fighters until it was demonstrated by the League of Arab States Observer Mission, which documented their killings, destruction and terrorism. Those parties then withdrew the Arab observers and put an end to the Mission. They failed to act on the Mission's report because it did not serve the interests of Syria's enemies within and beyond the League of Arab States.

The Syrian Arab Republic provided the League of Arab States Observer Mission and United Nations agencies with documentary proof of the armed terrorist groups' crimes against civilians and law enforcement forces in Syria, as well as their countless attacks on infrastructure and private and public property, which have impacted the lives of Syrian citizens. Verified preliminary figures show that terrorists have killed over 3,212 martyrs from the civilian population, 2,088 from

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the army and law enforcement forces, 478 from the police, 204 women and 56 children. In addition, they have carried out kidnappings and issued death threats for ransom: 1,570 civilians, soldiers and policemen have been kidnapped, 941 of whom are still missing. Some of their bodies were found after being displayed. 2,286 Government vehicles have been stolen.

It is strange that while ostensibly shedding tears for the Syrian people, many media organizations and officials within and beyond the region have not said a word about those crimes. Instead, they have pressed for regional and international organizations to adopt resolutions whose fundamental aim is to provide a distorted view of Syria, threaten its stability, independence and sovereignty, and damage its regional and international role. The representatives of some Member States of the United Nations are now falling over one another to turn the international institutions against Syria in order to undermine Mr. Annan's efforts. Syria, on the other hand, has affirmed that it supports Mr. Annan's mission and will cooperate to ensure its success.

Syria urges all States to cooperate with it to prevent and eliminate terrorist acts, including by implementing the international counter-terrorism resolutions. Syria insists that the international community and, in particular, the Security Council must take the necessary measures to prevent and eliminate the funding or preparation from abroad of any terrorist acts against Syria. Certain States have expressed support for the terrorists and advocated arming them in order to attack Syria. We urge those States to consider the consequences of their words and deeds; the world has not yet forgotten the disastrous regional and international impact of their decision to fund terrorists in other States. Syria insists that all concerned States must refrain from giving safe haven to individuals who plan, support or commit terrorist acts. The international community can no longer indulge those terrorists or their backers. Moreover, international terrorism is closely connected with transnational organized crime, money-laundering and illicit trafficking of drugs and weapons, aspects that are all relevant to the events currently taking place in Syria. The concerned parties in the United Nations must reject and condemn such actions in order to coordinate national, regional and international efforts to confront those grave challenges to international security.

As a founding member of the United Nations and an active participant in its work, Syria looks forward to the cooperation of all States in order to eliminate terrorism and the funding and arming thereof. Independent and sovereign States should be spared the tragic legacy of terrorism.

I should be grateful if you could have this letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 109 and 118, and of the Security Council.